THE LITTLE PILGRIMS AND THE BOOK BELOVED

MARIE E. J. HOBART

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THE LITTLE PILGRIMS
AND THE BOOK BELOVED

MOTHER CHURCH

THE LITTLE PILGRIMS AND THE BOOK BELOVED

A MYSTERY PLAY

BY

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"LADY CATECHISM AND THE CHILD"

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

91 AND 93 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

LONDON, BOMBAY, AND CALCUTTA

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Written for St. Agnes' Sunday School, Trinity Parish, and presented by the Children of the Sunday School on the Eve of St. Agnes, 1906.

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MARIE E. J. HOBART

First Edition, November, 1906
Reprinted, November, 1907

Dedicated
to
H. L. H.

THE LITTLE PILGRIMS AND THE BOOK BELOVED

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

CHRISTOPHER, A Servant of Mother Church

FIRST LITTLE PILGRIM

SECOND LITTLE PILGRIM

MOTHER CHURCH

Matins

Evensong

Litany

Baptism

Lady Catechism

Confirmation

Eucharist

Psalter

Matrimony

Visitation of Sick

Requiem

Churching of Women

Maris Stella

Visitation of Prisoners

Song of Harvest Home

Family Prayer

Ordinal

Articles of Religion

THE BOOKBINDER

Lectionary

Calendar

Preface

Ratification

A CHILD OF ST. AGNES

Flower Girls, Acolytes, a Standard Bearer

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Mother Church . . . . *Frontispiece*

To face page

Aye, verily, the sign of God's love . . 4

We are pilgrims from the Land of Darkness 8

I am about to show you the great Christian act of worship 24

Arise, thou incomparable young prince . 40

Come with me, thou Book Beloved, and let us take the World for Christ! . 52

THE LITTLE PILGRIMS
AND THE BOOK BELOVED

THE LITTLE PILGRIMS AND THE BOOK BELOVED

—

SCENE

A RUDE, WAYSIDE CROSS, WEATHER-STAINED AND OVERGROWN WITH VINES. OPPOSITE THE CROSS, A RUSTIC BENCH FOR TRAVELERS' USE.

—

A bell in the village Church tower rings the hour of noon. Enter Christopher. He wears a straw hat, and carries a sickle and a little sheaf of wheat, because he comes from working in the fields. He stands opposite the Cross, and looks at it attentively for a few moments.

Christopher.— At this hour the Saviour of the World stretched forth His arms upon the Cross, for our redemption. Holy Church bids us cease our work for a moment to pray for those who

dwell in the region and shadow of death, that in their darkness light may spring up.

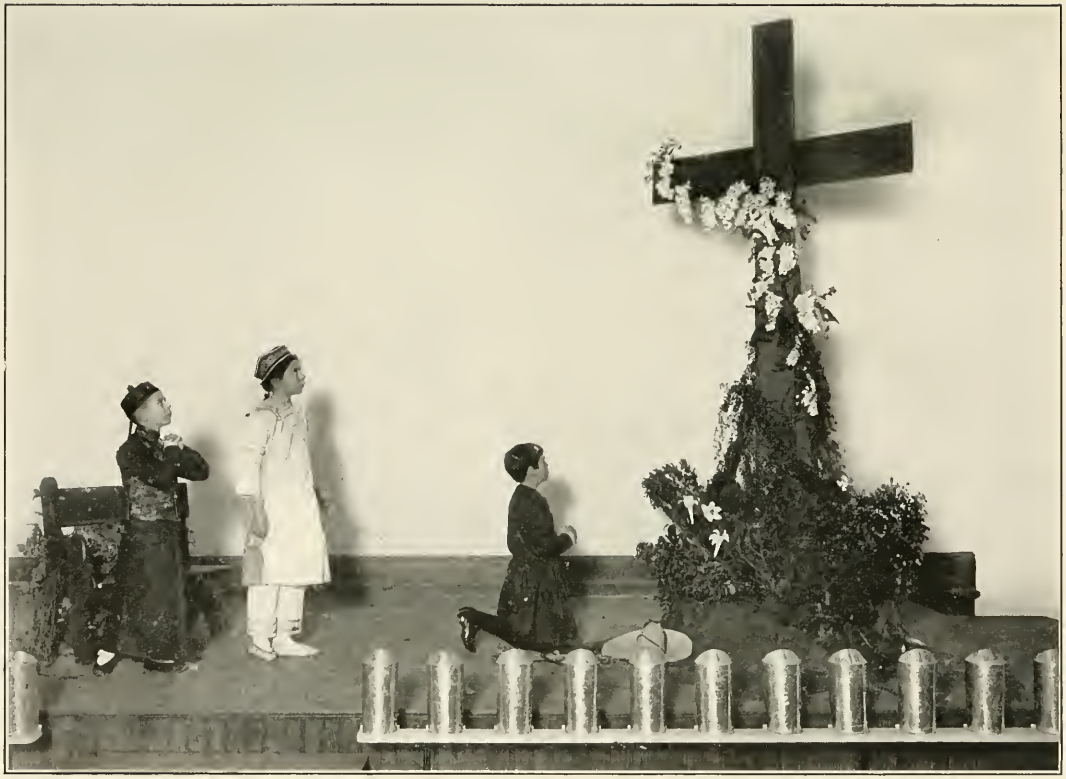
He lays aside his hat and his sheaf and sickle, and kneels before the Cross, where he remains in an attitude of deep devotion. Enter the two Little Pilgrims. The younger of them sinks down wearily on the rustic bench.

Second Little Pilgrim.—Let us rest awhile, my sister, the way is long, and the sun is very hot.

First Little Pilgrim.—Yes, the way is long, but brother, when our quest is finished, we will remember no more the weariness of the journey, so great will be our joy.

Second Little Pilgrim.—(After a slight pause, looks up and sees the Cross.) The Sign! My sister, the Sign!

First Little Pilgrim.—Aye, verily, the Sign of God's love, and one praying



AYE, VERILY, THE SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE

beside it. Now blessed be the Lord God of our Teacher who hath led us in the right way!

Christopher rises from his knees, picks up the sickle and sheaf, and turning sees the Little Pilgrims.

Christopher.— God be with you, gentle pilgrims!

The Two Little Pilgrims.—(bowing low) And with thee, fair stranger!

Christopher.— I see by your apparel that ye are come from afar.

First Little Pilgrim.—Yes, we are little pilgrims from the Land of Darkness.

Christopher.— And what seek ye, so far from your native land?

Second Little Pilgrim.—We seek Holy Church.

Christopher.—(with surprise) Holy Church!

The Little Pilgrims draw back, somewhat disconcerted.

First Little Pilgrim.—(timidly) We thought when we saw thee kneeling yonder

(pointing to the Cross), that thou knewest Holy Church, and couldst direct us where to find her.

Christopher.—(eagerly) Aye, verily I know her, for she is my own sweet Mother. I only marvelled that *ye* should know her, since ye say that ye are come from the Land of Darkness.

Second Little Pilgrim.—We know Holy Church in name only, her have we not yet seen.

First Little Pilgrim.—But, craving your pardon, fair sir, we cannot tell our errand to anyone, saving only to Holy Church, for such was the command laid upon us by our good Teacher who sent us hither.

Christopher.— Then will I lead you to her without further delay, but stay,

ye are weary with your journey, rest here beside the Rood, and I will run quickly and call Mother Church, for she is not far away.

Exit Christopher (*running*).

The Little Pilgrims look up at the Rood with trustful love, then seat themselves at its foot and rest their heads against it.

Music plays softly one verse of "The Church's One Foundation."

Enter Mother Church, preceded by Christopher, who henceforth bears a cross, as he is in attendance on Holy Church.

Mother Church walks quickly, looking about her with tender anxiety. She wears a white robe and mantle, a red cross broidered on her bosom. She has also a helmet and sword to show that we see her as the Church Militant here in earth. At her girdle she wears a bunch of keys.

Mother Church.—And where are these little pilgrims who have come so far seeking the Mother in whose

arms they should have been cradled? (Sees the Little Pilgrims.) Ah! (She holds out her arms to them.)

The Little Pilgrims have risen when Mother Church first enters. They now advance timidly, bowing very low.

First Little Pilgrim.—Gracious Lady!

Second Little Pilgrim.—Gracious Lady!

Mother Church.—(gathering them in her arms) Precious little lambs, for whom the Good Shepherd died! (A pause during which Mother Church looks at the Little Pilgrims with loving interest. She then leads them towards the bench, and seating herself, places the Little Pilgrims before her.) Now tell me, whence are ye come, and what is your errand with me?

Second Little Pilgrim.—We are pilgrims from the Land of Darkness.

WE ARE PILGRIMS FROM THE LAND OF DARKNESS

First Little Pilgrim.—We are come to ask thee to teach us how to worship God.

Mother Church.— And how did ye hear of God in the Land of Darkness?

First Little Pilgrim.—Gracious Lady, we had a teacher.

Second Little Pilgrim.—But only for a little while, then he was set upon by wicked men, and wounded so sorely that presently he died.

Mother Church.— Who was your teacher, my little pilgrims?

Second Little Pilgrim.—He was a servant of thine, dear Lady.

First Little Pilgrim.—He was so good! He healed us of our sicknesses, and restored many blind folk to sight.

Second Little Pilgrim.—Aye, and he told us of God, the Father of Heaven.

First Little Pilgrim.—Yes, and we know some-

what of the meaning of yonder Sign. (pointing to the Rood)

Mother Church.—And what is the meaning of yonder Sign, sweet little ones?

The two Little Pilgrims together eagerly.—That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life!

Mother Church.—Verily and indeed, ye have well learned the meaning of the Cross, my little pilgrims. God be praised for the faithfulness of His missionaries! He will not forget their works and labor that proceedeth of love, which they have showed for His Name's sake . . . . Did this same, your teacher, send you to find me?

First Little Pilgrim.—Yes, with his last breath

he bade us never rest until we had found thee.

Second Little Pilgrim.—For, said he, She alone can teach you to worship the Lord your God after the pattern which was showed her in the Mount.

Mother Church.— Ye have done well to obey your teacher, and the Lord shall reward your faith and grant you your hearts' desire: For ye were created to worship God, and the one purpose and joy of life is this, perfectly to love Him and worthily to magnify His Holy Name. I will therefore show you after what manner the Church Catholic doth worship God. (To Christopher.) Christopher, hie thee to yonder belfry, and ring the bell for Matins.

Christopher.— Aye, my lady. (He salutes and goes out.)

The chimes ring one verse of "Come, my soul, thou must be waking," during which Matins enters and takes her place before Mother Church. She carries a banner with the legend "Day by Day."

When the chimes have ceased playing, Christopher enters and takes his place behind Mother Church, and he does this after the entrance of each of the Services, etc., whom he summons.

Mother Church.—Matins, tell these little pilgrims what is thy service in the worship of the Catholic Church.

Matins.— I call upon all Christians to give their first thoughts to God in the freshness of each new day. I move them to confess their sins humbly before their merciful Father, that they may receive His most gracious pardon and

cleansing through the mouth of His chosen ministers. Then must they rise and praise God with glad heart and voice, then listen to His most Holy Word that they may learn what is His Will for them to do. Then do they stand and confess their Faith, then meekly kneeling, pray for peace and grace, for their rulers spiritual and temporal, for all sorts and conditions of men, and for all the desires of their hearts as may be most expedient for them. And when they have thanked God for all His loving kindness to them, then are they commended to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the love of God, and to the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, and so dismissed in peace to

their work. This is the order for Daily Morning Prayer.

Mother Church.—Have ye understood this, my children?

The Little Pilgrims.—Yes, gracious Lady.

Mother Church.—Christopher, ring now the Vesper bell.

Exit Christopher, after saluting.

The chimes play "The shadows of the evening hours" during which Evensong enters. Her banner bears the legend "We magnify thee." She takes her place at the left of Matins.

Mother Church.—Sweet Evensong, tell these little pilgrims what is thy service in the Church of God.

Evensong.— When "the shadows of the evening hours fall from the darkening skies," I call all Christians to come and commune with God before they go to their rest. I bid them again lay down the burden of

their sins and be forgiven. I read them again from the blessed Word of God. I lead their songs of praise. Again they confess their Faith and make known unto God the desires of their hearts, and so they go in peace to their rest, for God will lighten their darkness and preserve them from all perils and dangers of the night. This is the Order for Daily Evening Prayer.

Matins and Evensong now join hands.

Mother Church.—And thus ye see, my children, that from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same God's name is praised. See, therefore, that ye forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.

First Little Pilgrim.—Nay, sweet Lady, but rather will we be glad when

they say unto us (looking toward Matins and Evensong), "Let us go into the House of the Lord."

Mother Church.—And now, dear Breviary, give place a little that I may further instruct these little ones. (Matins and Evensong withdraw to the back of the stage.) Christopher, summon the Litany to me here.

Exit Christopher, now and hereafter saluting when he receives an order from his Mistress.

The chimes are heard ringing, "Saviour, when in dust to Thee."

Enter Litany. He wears a violet cassock and over this a cotta, and he carries a smoking censer. His banner bears the legend, "Spare us, Good Lord!"

Mother Church.—Oh, Litany of the pleading voice, tell these little ones how thou first camest into the

Church and what is now thine office therein.

Litany.— In days of yore, when the sins of men had brought upon them such righteous judgments as war and earthquake, plague, pestilence and famine, I called the children of the Church to repentance, and led them forth in solemn procession through streets and lanes and fields, chanting aloud their humble confession of sin, and their supplication for mercy and relief. In these days I call them to church thrice in the week, still to confess their sins, and beseech their good Lord that it may please Him to succour, help and comfort all who are in danger, necessity and tribulation, and this, little pilgrims, am I, the Litany or General Supplication.

Second Little Pilgrim.—May God ever hear thy voice and ours, good Litany!

Litany withdraws and takes his place at the left of Evensong.

Mother Church.—And now, my children, I will show you a fountain of living water through which all must pass who would be living members of Christ. (To Christopher) Summon Baptism to me anon.

Exit Christopher. Chimes play "Just as I am," during which Baptism enters. Her banner bears the legend "Wash away thy sins."

Mother Church.—Thou keeper of the Mystical Fountain, tell, I pray thee, these little catechumens what is thine office in the Church of God.

Baptism.— My little catechumens, ye know that all men are by nature born in sin, therefore

standeth the font at the Church door, that all infants may be brought there so soon as they are born, that they may be washed from their sins in this water of life, and given grace to be Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto their life's end.

First Little Pilgrim.—(to Mother Church) Since God hath provided this Fountain for all men, what doth hinder us to be baptized?

Mother Church.—If ye believe with all your hearts, ye may.

The two Little Pilgrims.—(with earnest conviction) I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Mother Church motions to Baptism, who delivers her banner to the keeping of Christopher, and taking one of the Little Pilgrims by each hand, leads them away. And as she does so the music again plays

softly, "Just as I am." Mother Church rises, and signing Herself with the sign of the Cross, goes over to the Rood where she stands in silence, with bowed head, devoutly giving thanks unto God, and praying that the Little Pilgrims may lead the rest of their lives according to this beginning.

When the music dies away, Baptism enters again, leading the children whom she presents to Mother Church.

Mother Church.—Thanks be to God! For now are ye delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. . . . . But ye must continue in the Faith, grounded and settled, and therefore I will now commit you to the guardian whom I have appointed for all Christian children. Christopher, bid the Lady Catechism come to me here.

Exit Christopher. Music plays "Jesus, tender Shepherd." Enter Lady Catechism. She is dressed in white, and wears a white veil. She carries a lily and a white book.

Mother Church.—Lady Catechism, I commit to thy loving care these little Christians, with the dew of baptism still upon their foreheads, that thou mayest teach them their duty as children of God.

Lady Catechism.—My little ones, I am the friend of all Christian children. Ye have heard that our dear Mother hath given you to my care. Come, therefore, to me at the time appointed that I may teach you those things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health, and when I have taught you, I will bring

you back to Mother Church that ye may receive the Apostolic Rite of Confirmation.

Second Little Pilgrim.—We will do so most gladly.

First Little Pilgrim.—And we will faithfully learn all that thou hast to teach us.

Mother Church.—Well said, my children. (Lady Catechism withdraws.) I will now show you this Apostolic Rite of which the Lady Catechism hath spoken. (To Christopher) Summon Confirmation hither.

Exit Christopher. Music, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," during which Confirmation enters. His banner bears the legend "Strength to Persevere."

Mother Church.—Confirmation, tell these Little Pilgrims what *thou* wilt do for them.

Confirmation.— Little Christians, in baptism ye were made members of Christ, children of God and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven; it is mine to crown those gifts with Strength to Persevere. Learn, therefore, what Lady Catechism hath to teach you, and then come and receive in the laying on of hands the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit that ye may continue unto your life's end in that state of salvation unto which it hath pleased God to call you.

Confirmation withdraws.

Mother Church.—And now, my little ones, draw near with faith and listen, for I am about to show you the great Christian act of worship, ordained by Christ Himself as a means of grace and pledge

of His love. Christopher, ring now thy sweetest chime to welcome Holy Eucharist.

Exit Christopher. Chimes play "And now, O Father."

Enter Eucharist preceded by two little girls strewing flowers from their baskets, two little acolytes with lighted candles, an acolyte with a banner on which is written "Lift up your hearts."

Mother Church.—(rising) Fair Missal, behold! here are little travelers from a far country who would fain know thee and what place thou hast in the worship of the Catholic Church.

Eucharist.— Nineteen hundred years ago, in an upper room in the ancient city of Jerusalem, I was called into the service of His Church by the dear Lord of us all. Since first He placed in my hands His Holy Gifts,

I AM ABOUT TO SHOW YOU THE GREAT CHRISTIAN ACT OF WORSHIP

I offer a perpetual memory of His precious death and sacrifice until the glad day of His coming, and do feed His faithful people with these Holy Mysteries that they may evermore dwell in Him and He in them. . . . . Is it not meet, right and my bounden duty that I should at all times and in all places show forth my Lord's death until He come?

Second Little Pilgrim.—How wonderful!

First Little Pilgrim.—How beautiful! (to Mother Church) But are we worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under our Lord's Table?

Mother Church.—(very tenderly) The property of your Lord is always to have mercy: He will not

weigh your merits, but will pardon your offences; therefore, be not afraid.

The two Little Pilgrims.—Oh, then, let us also offer in His dwelling our oblation with great gladness!

Mother Church.—The Lord doth grant you your hearts' desire, for now ye who were sometimes afar off are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.

Eucharist withdraws. Her attendants go off the stage.

Mother Church.—And now, that your mouths may ever show forth His praise, I will show you mine ancient hymnal. (To Christopher) Summon hither Psalter.

Exit Christopher. Chimes play "Golden Harps are Sounding."
Enter Psalter. She wears a wreath of bay leaves and carries a harp.

Mother Church.—Thou Harp of Ancient Jewry, what hast thou to say in this day to the people of God?

Psalter.— My song is old, and yet ever new, it is this, O Sion:
Praise God in His holiness: praise Him in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him in His noble acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet: praise Him upon the lute and harp.
Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord.

Mother Church.—Glory be to the Father, and

to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Everyone else on the stage.—As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Psalter withdraws.
Mother Church seats herself.

Mother Church.—I will now show you further rites and ceremonies of the Church according to the American Use, for remember this, my children, I am your Mother, and all that ye do concerns me. Bring to me, therefore, your joys and sorrows, let me live with you your daily life. Christopher, hie thee once more to the belfry, and ring us a merry wedding chime.

Exit Christopher. The chimes ring the Wedding March of Mendelssohn, during

which enters Holy Matrimony. Her banner bears the device of a circle, and the legend, "Let no man put asunder."

Mother Church.—Holy Matrimony, what hast thou to say of Christian marriage to these little pilgrims?

Holy Matrimony.—When a Christian man and a Christian maid will enter into Holy Wedlock, they must come and plight their troth before God's altar. Then will they be joined together by Holy Church, and receive God's blessing and His Heavenly Grace that they may so live together in this life that in the world to come they may have life everlasting, and this is the Solemnization of Matrimony. Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder!

Holy Matrimony withdraws.

Mother Church.—Let Visitation now attend me here.

Exit Christopher. Music "Abide with me." Enter Visitation. Her banner bears the legend "Yet will I trust Him."

Mother Church.—Visitation, speak to these little pilgrims of thine office.

Visitation.— St. James doth tell us in his pastoral letter to his scattered flock that if any disciple be sick, he is to send for the elders of the Church that they may pray over him. Therefore, when any Christian is sick, it is the duty of his friends to give timely notice to the Minister of the Parish, who, coming to the sick person's house, will pray for him to the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, and will also show him that his sick-

ness is certainly God's visitation to help him forward in the right way that leadeth unto everlasting life. This is the Order for the Visitation of the Sick.

Visitation withdraws.

Mother Church.—(Rising) Christopher, ring the Requiem Bell!

Exit Christopher. The Chimes ring one verse of "When our hearts are bowed with woe." Mother Church bows her head, crossing her arms over her breast, everyone on the stage follows her example, the Little Pilgrims last of all, with wondering hesitation. After the Chimes have ceased, there is a pause during which all retain their attitude of sorrowful prayer. Then suddenly the Chimes peal forth and play, "The Strife is o'er." All lift their heads and look glad. Enter Requiem, dressed in white. On her banner is written "The Lord is risen!"

Mother Church.—Sweet Requiem, thou com-

forter of the sorrowful, tell these little pilgrims how Christians feel about death.

Requiem.— Ye little pilgrims to the City of God, Christians do not fear to die, because their Lord hath overcome death and opened unto them the gates of everlasting life. Therefore, when a Christian lies down in peace to take his rest, his friends must never sorrow for him as if they were without hope, for the grave is only the open door to our "long home."

First Little Pilgrim.—How blessed are the dead who die in the Lord!

Second Little Pilgrim.—May we so pass to our joyful resurrection!

Requiem withdraws.

Mother Church.—Summon me now the Churching of Women.

Exit Christopher. Music plays "By cool Siloam's shady rill" (tune "Manoah"). Enter the Churching of Women. Banner "My heart rejoiceth."

Mother Church.—What is thine office, thou happy one?

Churching of Women.—When a Christian woman receives God's great gift of a little child, then should she, like Hannah of old and like Blessed Mary, come into the house of God to return thanks and to pray that she may bring up her child in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and this is the Thanksgiving of Women for their children.

Churching of Women withdraws.

Mother Church.—Call hither the Star of the Sea.

Exit Christopher. Music "Eternal Father, strong to save." Enter Maris Stella. Banner "The Sea is His."

Mother Church.—Why art thou called the Star of the Sea?

Maris Stella.— Because I am the Form of Prayer to be used at Sea, and like a star above the stormy wave I guide the sailors to their sure refuge. Then are they glad because they are at rest.

Maris Stella withdraws.

Mother Church.—Summon the Visitation of Prisoners.

Exit Christopher. Music "Weary of earth and laden with my sin."
Enter Visitation of Prisoners. Banner "Deliver us from evil."

Mother Church.—Declare thine office to these little pilgrims.

Visitation of Prisoners.—Our gracious God desireth not the death of a sinner, but would rather that he turn from his wickedness and live; therefore, the Church

sendeth her ministers into the very prisons to pray for them who are so tied and bound with the chain of their sins, that the pitifulness of God's great mercy may loose them. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over every such sinner that repenteth.

Visitation of Prisoners withdraws.

Mother Church.—Summon now the Song of Harvest Home.

Exit Christopher. Chimes play "Come ye thankful people, come."
Enter Song of Harvest Home, bearing the fruits of the Harvest.

Mother Church.—What is thy song, O Harvest Home?

Song of Harvest Home.—My song is thanksgiving to God who crowneth the year with goodness and who hath blessed our native

land with peace and prosperity. Therefore, we come before His presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in Him with psalms, humbly beseeching Him that He will increase in our land true religion, that we may be honest in the sight of all men and evermore faithful to our God.

First Little Pilgrim.—Happy are the people that are in such a case!

Second Little Pilgrim.—Yea, blessed are the people who have the Lord for their God.

Song of Harvest Home withdraws.

Mother Church.—Let Family Prayer attend me here.

Exit Christopher. Music "Home, sweet Home."

Enter Family Prayer. Banner "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

Mother Church.—Family Prayer, what commission holdest thou from me?

Family Prayer.— To enter every Christian home and there abide, for no family life is right in thy sight, dear Mother, unless it include daily Family Prayer.

Family Prayer withdraws.

Mother Church.—I would now have the Ordinal come hither.

Exit Christopher. Music "Come Holy Spirit."
Enter Ordinal. His banner bears the device of a Dove.

Mother Church.—Who art thou, and what is thine office and service in the Catholic Church?

Ordinal.— I am the form and manner of ordaining and consecrating those men who for their learning and godly conversation are apt and meet to exercise

their ministry to the honor of God and to the edifying of His Church.

Mother Church.—And what are the divers orders of ministers thou art appointed to make, ordain and consecrate?

Ordinal.— It is evident unto all men diligently reading Holy Scripture and ancient authors that from the Apostles' time there have been these orders of ministers in Christ's Church, Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

Mother Church.—(to the Little Pilgrims) These are the Shepherds appointed by Christ to feed His flock, see therefore, that ye, duly considering whose authority they have, do show them all loving reverence and obedience, and when they speak

unto you the word of God, take heed how ye hear!

First Little Pilgrim.—To all that the Lord saith unto us by their mouth will we hearken.

Second Little Pilgrim.—And be obedient.

Ordinal withdraws.

Mother Church.—Call hither Articles of Religion.

Exit Christopher. Music "Ancient of Days."

Enter Articles. He wears a doctor's cap and gown, and carries a scroll.

Mother Church.—What lesson hast thou for my children, Articles of Religion?

Articles.— That we lean not to our own understanding, lest we be carried about with divers doctrines.

First Little Pilgrim.—From all false doctrine, heresy and schism,

Second Little Pilgrim.—Good Lord, deliver us!

Articles withdraws.

Mother Church.—My little pilgrims, ye have now seen the worship and service of the Catholic Church, according to the American Use, but lest any of these several services or rites should be neglected or lost, I will presently bind them together for you. Christopher, let my Bookbinder know that I desire his service anon.

Exit Christopher. Music "God Save the King!"
Enter the Bookbinder, Edward VI, preceded by a page bearing the English Standard, with the date, 1549. The Bookbinder drops on his knee before Mother Church, removing his crown.

Mother Church.—Arise, thou incomparable young prince, and faithful son of mine. (He rises) I have sent for thee to do once more thine ancient office, and to bind

ARISE, THOU INCOMPARABLE YOUNG PRINCE

for me this time the American Use, but first tell these little pilgrims who thou art, and how thou becamest my Bookbinder.

The Bookbinder.—(turning to the Little Pilgrims) Little pilgrims from Far Cathay, I am Edward Tudor, by God's grace sometime King of Merrie England, and because at the bidding of my sweet Mother (looking toward Mother Church), I, being guided by Providence, and helped by the good Bishops and learned Doctors of my realm, did gather up from Breviary and Primer, from Procession and Missal the scattered services of the English Use, and did cause them to be turned from Latin into a tongue understanded by the people, to wit

our own dear English speech, therefore, did this, my Liege Lady, appoint me to be her own Bookbinder, which office is more to me than any earthly crown.

Mother Church.—Proceed now with thy work, my son.

The Bookbinder now ranges the different services in order one behind the other, beginning with Matins and proceeding in the order in which they are found in the Prayer-Book.

The Bookbinder.—Shall I include with these the Lectionary?

Mother Church.—Aye verily.

The Bookbinder beckons with his hand. Enter Lectionary. He carries a Bible and a banner with the words "Read, Mark, Learn."

The Bookbinder.—Who art thou?

Lectionary.— I am the Order how the Holy Scripture is appointed to be

read, for the Church doth declare that God hath appointed *all* Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, and that we must read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them. From all blindness of heart and from contempt of His Word may God ever deliver us!

Everyone on the stage, with hearty earnestness.— Amen!

Lectionary is placed by the Bookbinder in front of Matins.

Bookbinder.— (to Mother Church) Shall I include Calendar?

Mother Church.—Do so, my son.

The Bookbinder beckons again. Enter Calendar. Banner "Follow Me."

Bookbinder.— Who art thou?

Calendar.— I am the Church Calendar, or the Table of Feasts and Fasts.

I call upon all Christians to follow year by year the footsteps of our Lord's most blessed life.

Calendar is placed by the Bookbinder in front of Lectionary.

Bookbinder.— Shall I include Preface?

Mother Church.—Yes, since the American Church would always remember her high lineage and her august parent, the Church of England.

The Bookbinder beckons again. Enter Preface. He bears a banner with the words

America.
England.
Gaul.
Asia Minor.
St. John.
XP.

Bookbinder.— What is the meaning of those words upon thy banner?

Preface.— They declare the pedigree of

the American Church, for the Church in these States is indebted under God to the Church of England for her first foundation and for a long continuance of nursing care, and the Church was first brought to England by Missionaries from Gaul, and the Church was planted in Southern Gaul by Missionaries from Asia Minor, and St. John, the Bishop of Ephesus, was the Beloved Disciple of Christ, and Christ is the Head of the Church, to whom may we be faithful unto death.

Preface is placed by the Bookbinder in front of Calendar.

Bookbinder.— Shall I include Ratification?

Mother Church.— Do so, my son.

Bookbinder beckons. Chimes play "The Star Spangled Banner."

Enter Ratification, decked out with red, white and blue. On her breast the date "1789."

Ratification.— (taking her place in front of Preface) I do declare and certify that this is the Use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

The Bookbinder now takes a brave ribband of scarlet and passes it around the whole Prayer-Book, fastening it in front of Ratification with a large gilt buckle on which is seen in goodly letters, "Common Prayer." A slight pause.

Mother Church.— (rising) And now, my little pilgrims, shall I not deliver to you this book, and let you depart in peace, since your eyes have seen your desire, the worship of the Catholic Church?

The Little Pilgrims whisper together. They hesitate and look troubled.

Mother Church.— What is it, my little ones? Do not fear to tell me all that is in your hearts!

First Little Pilgrim.—(after bowing low) Gracious Mother, what shall it profit us to take this book if thou go not with us into the Land of Darkness?

Second Little Pilgrim.—Come thou with us, dear Lady. Without thee we have no altar, no priesthood, no sacraments.

Mother Church.—(looking out dreamily into the distance, and speaking to herself) I hear again, echoing down the ages, that voice that came to me so long ago, floating over the star-lit waters of the Ægæan, "Come over and help us!" . . . . . Oh! for the spirit of Paul again!

Second Little Pilgrim.—We so greatly need thee.

It is so sad in the Land of Darkness.

First Little Pilgrim.—There are so many little girls in the Land of Darkness, and they have such a weary time. I beseech thee, dear Mother, go with us.

Second Little Pilgrim.—Mother! I beseech thee!

As they have been speaking Mother Church presses her hand to her heart, and breathes heavily.

Mother Church.—(passionately) Ye have touched my grievous wound, little pilgrims of the night. Ye have indeed a right to call me, for I was sent to you long ago, but I can only go where men will take me. God has chosen that the light of the glorious Gospel should be carried from one country to another, not by angels, but by the love and sacrifice of men. Thus went the

Apostles forth from Judæa to Greece and Rome. Thus have Missionaries in all ages gone to Gaul and Germany, to England and Scandinavia, and thus only can I now go into the Land of Darkness. (She turns to the audience) Oh! my children, ye hear this, ye hear these little ones pleading for their Mother? Will you not once for all rouse you from indifference and sloth and selfishness? Will ye not remember the command of your Lord, "Go forth into all lands"? How shall ye answer Him when He comes again? He said while He was yet with us, "Ye, *ye* are the light of the world," and yet in many places it is still dark . . . . . still dark . . . . . (she turns away.) Oh! who will teach me

a language in which to move them? (She goes over to the Rood, and bowing her head in her hands, weeps silently.)

A voice from the audience.—Weep no more, Holy Church.

Enter from the audience the Child of St. Agnes. She runs up the aisle, and calls again.

The Child of St. Agnes.—Weep no more, Holy Church.

She mounts the steps to the stage, goes to Mother Church and clasping her arms about the waist of Mother Church, looks up in her face.

The Child of St. Agnes.—Weep no more, sweet Mother!

Mother Church.—(laying her hand on the Child's head) And who art thou that carest so much for thy Mother's tears?

The Child of St. Agnes.—I am a child of St. Agnes'

School, and see! (holding up a mite box) this is our Lenten Offering. Thou shalt go into the Land of Darkness, for we will send thee!

Mother Church.—(takes the mite box into her hand, and speaks to herself) A little Child shall lead them all! (holds up the mite box) Yes, I will go into the Land of Darkness, for the love and sacrifice of my children will send me there. (to the Child) Tell the children of St. Agnes' Sunday School that I go, but that they must keep me there, for I must never turn back until the light of the everlasting gospel dispels the darkness, and the world is Christ's. (She delivers to the Child a banner on which is written "The World for Christ.") Take this banner to

the children of St. Agnes, and tell them that they are my little missionaries, and that they must be faithful to me unto their life's end, and that they must never let one day pass without working and praying and denying themselves until the World is Christ's.

The Child of St. Agnes takes the banner. Mother Church crosses the stage and lays her hand on the hilt of her sword.

Mother Church.—And now come with me, Book of Common Prayer, let us go forth into the Land of Darkness. Come with me, thou Book Beloved, (draws her sword and holds it above her head) and let us take The World for Christ!

Immediately the audience sings "Oh Sion haste." During the singing of this hymn, the actors pass out in slow procession, first

COME WITH ME, THOU BOOK BELOVED, AND LET US TAKE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

the Child of St. Agnes with her banner, then Mother Church, then the Book Beloved, then the Bookbinder, then Christopher, and last of all the Little Pilgrims. They pass down the main aisle, and out of the big door to show that they are going forth into the world.

THE END

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